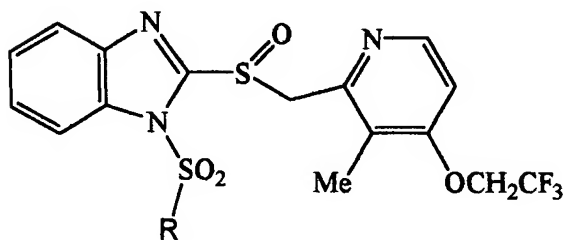
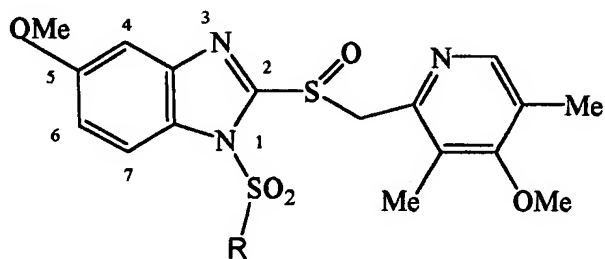
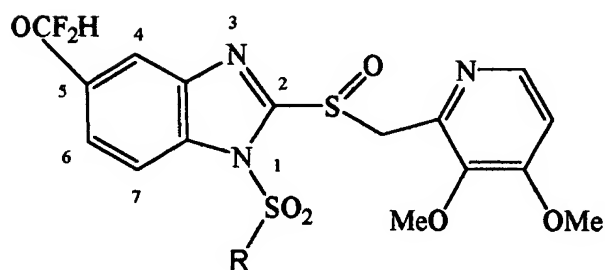
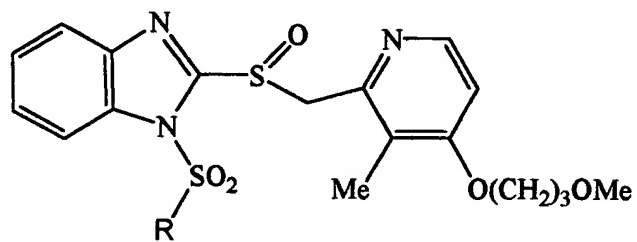
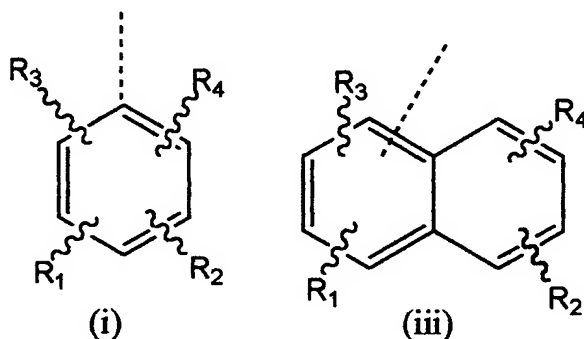


## COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**

**Formula 1****Formula 2****Formula 3****Formula 4**

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2 and 3** where the  $\text{OCH}_3$ , and  $\text{HF}_2\text{CO}$  groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and  
 wherein **R** represents the groups selected from **Formulas (i) and (iii)**;  
 the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the  $\text{SO}_2$  group;



**R<sub>1</sub>** and **R<sub>2</sub>** independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two **R<sub>5</sub>** groups, or a straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two **R<sub>5</sub>** groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{NR}_6-$ ,  $-\text{NHCO}-$ ,  $-\text{CONH}-$ ,  $-\text{CONHCO}-$ ,  $-\text{COO}-$ ,  $-\text{OCO}-$  and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two **R<sub>3</sub>** groups; or the **R<sub>5</sub>** group is directly attached without an intervening **R<sub>1</sub>** or **R<sub>2</sub>** group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the **Y** group of formulas **(i) through (viii)**;

**R<sub>3</sub>** and **R<sub>4</sub>** independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

**R<sub>5</sub>** is independently H, COOH or a tetrazole moiety;

**R<sub>6</sub>** is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

~~at least one~~ or more of the **R<sub>1</sub>** and **R<sub>2</sub>** groups is not H, and

~~at least one~~ or more **R<sub>5</sub>** is not H and no more than two **R<sub>5</sub>** groups are COOH or tetrazole whereby the compound ~~includes at least~~ has one but no more than two COOH or tetrazole groups;

~~when Y is N then neither of the R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> groups is H,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

2. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 1**.

3. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 2**.

4. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 3**.

5. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 4**.

6. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where **R<sub>5</sub>** is independently selected from H and COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

7. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where the formula ~~includes~~ has at least one or more **X** ~~group groups~~.

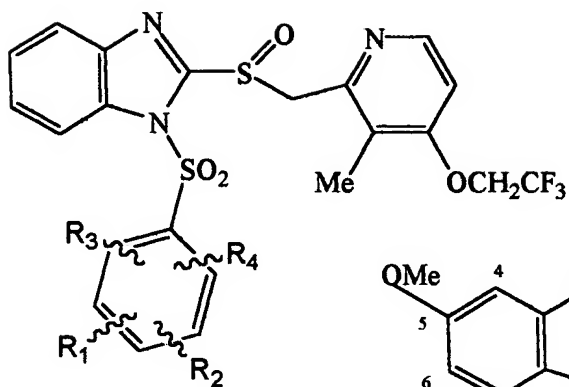
8. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where ~~at least one~~ or more **X** is O.

9. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where ~~at least one~~ or more **X** is CONH.

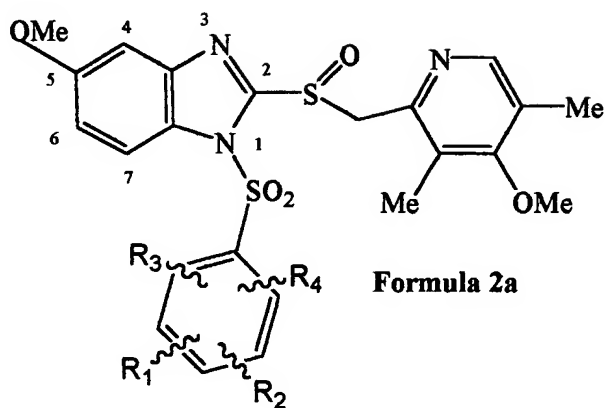
9. (erroneous second occurrence CANCELED)

10. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where R represents **formula (i)**.

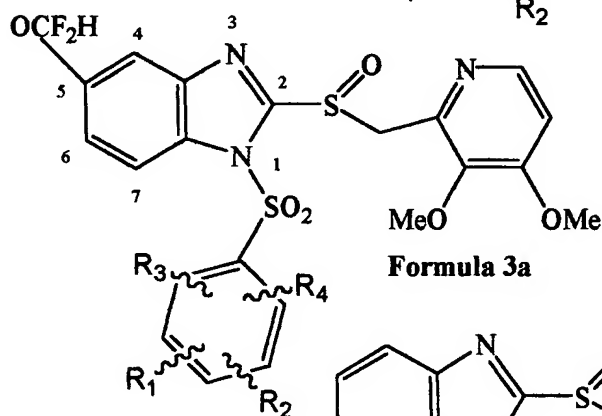
11. (currently amended) A compound of **Formula 1a, Formula 2a, Formula 3a or of Formula 4a**



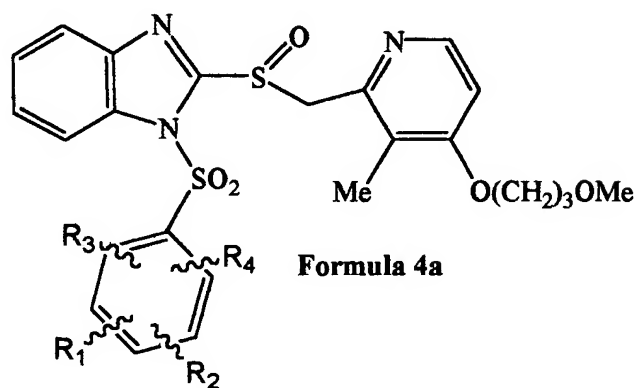
Formula 1a



Formula 2a



Formula 3a



Formula 4a

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2a** and **3a** where the  $\text{OCH}_3$ , and  $\text{HF}_2\text{CO}$  groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring,

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two  $\text{R}_5$  groups, or a

straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two  $R_5$  groups and optionally further including one to three  $X$  groups where  $X$  is independently selected from the group consisting of  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  $-NR_6-$ ,  $-NHCO-$ ,  $-CONH-$ ,  $-CONHCO-$ ,  $-COO-$ ,  $-OCO-$  and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two  $R_3$  groups; or the  $R_5$  group is directly attached without an intervening  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the  $Y$  group of formulas (i) through (viii);

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

$R_5$  is independently H or COOH;

$R_6$  is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

~~at least one~~ or more of the  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  groups is not H, and

~~at least one~~ or more  $R_5$  is not H and no more than two  $R_5$  groups are COOH whereby the compound includes ~~at least one~~ but no more than two COOH groups;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

12. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 1a.**

13. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 2a.**

14. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 13 where the  $CH_3O$  group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

15. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has

**Formula 3a.**

16. (previously amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 15 where the HF<sub>2</sub>CO group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

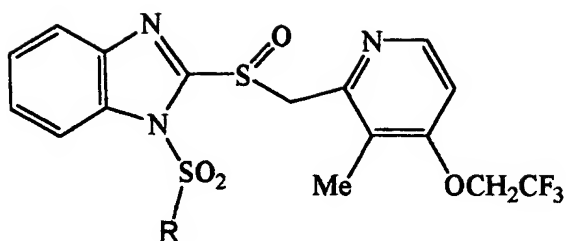
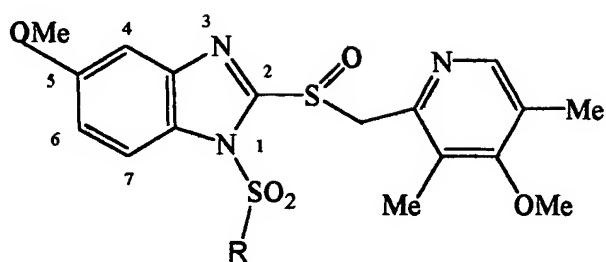
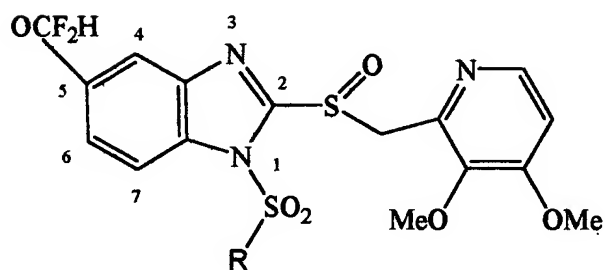
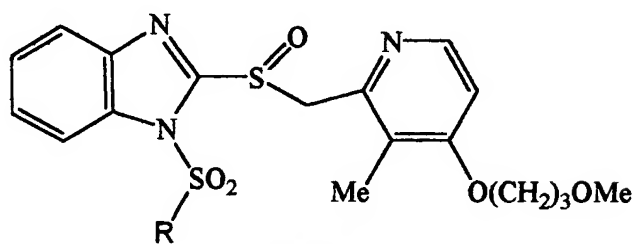
17. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 4a.**

18. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that ~~includes~~ has only one COOH group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

19. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that ~~includes~~ has only two COOH groups, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

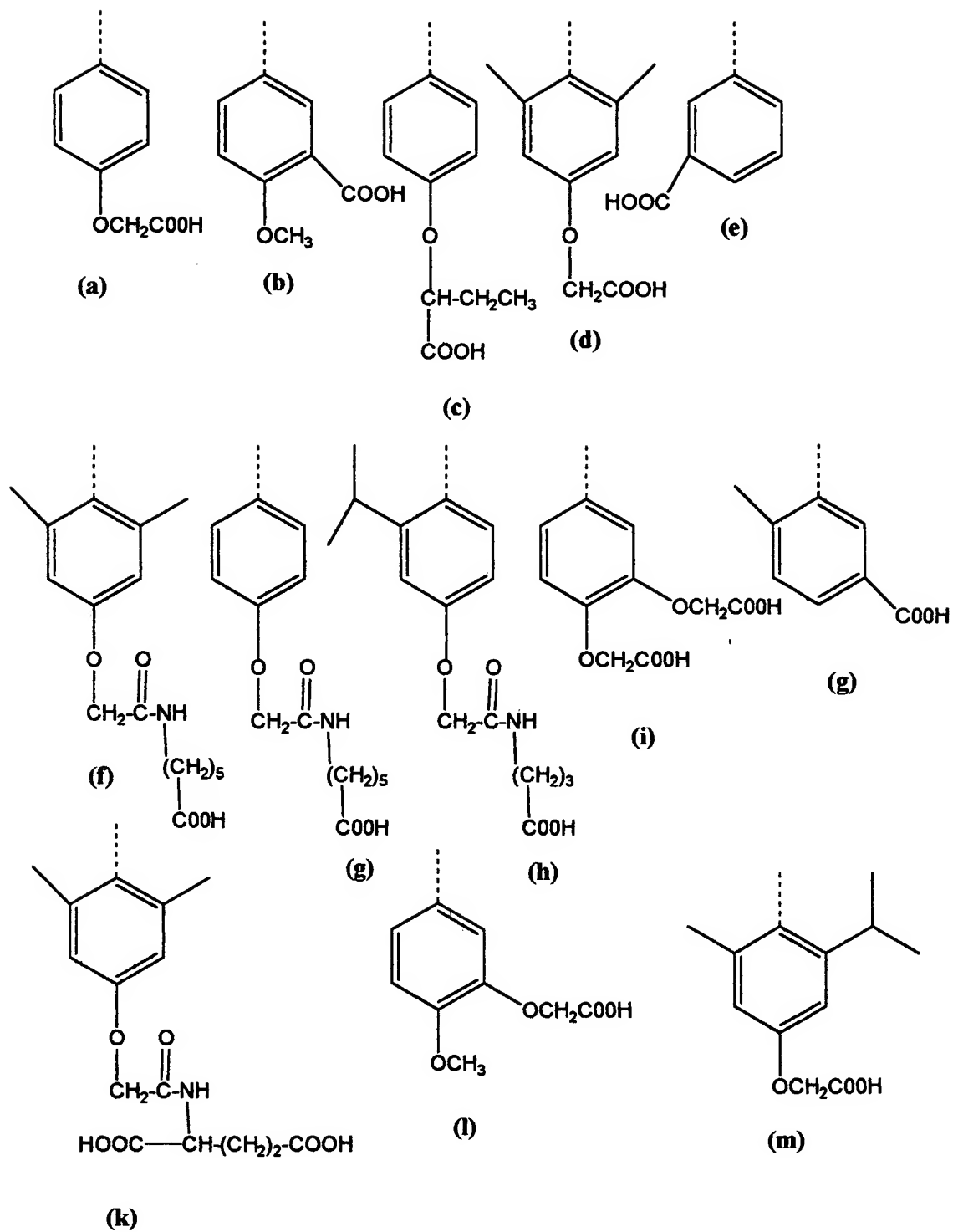
20. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 where R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen and R<sub>1</sub> is OCH<sub>2</sub>COOH attached in the 4 position on the phenyl ring ~~relative~~ relative to the sulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

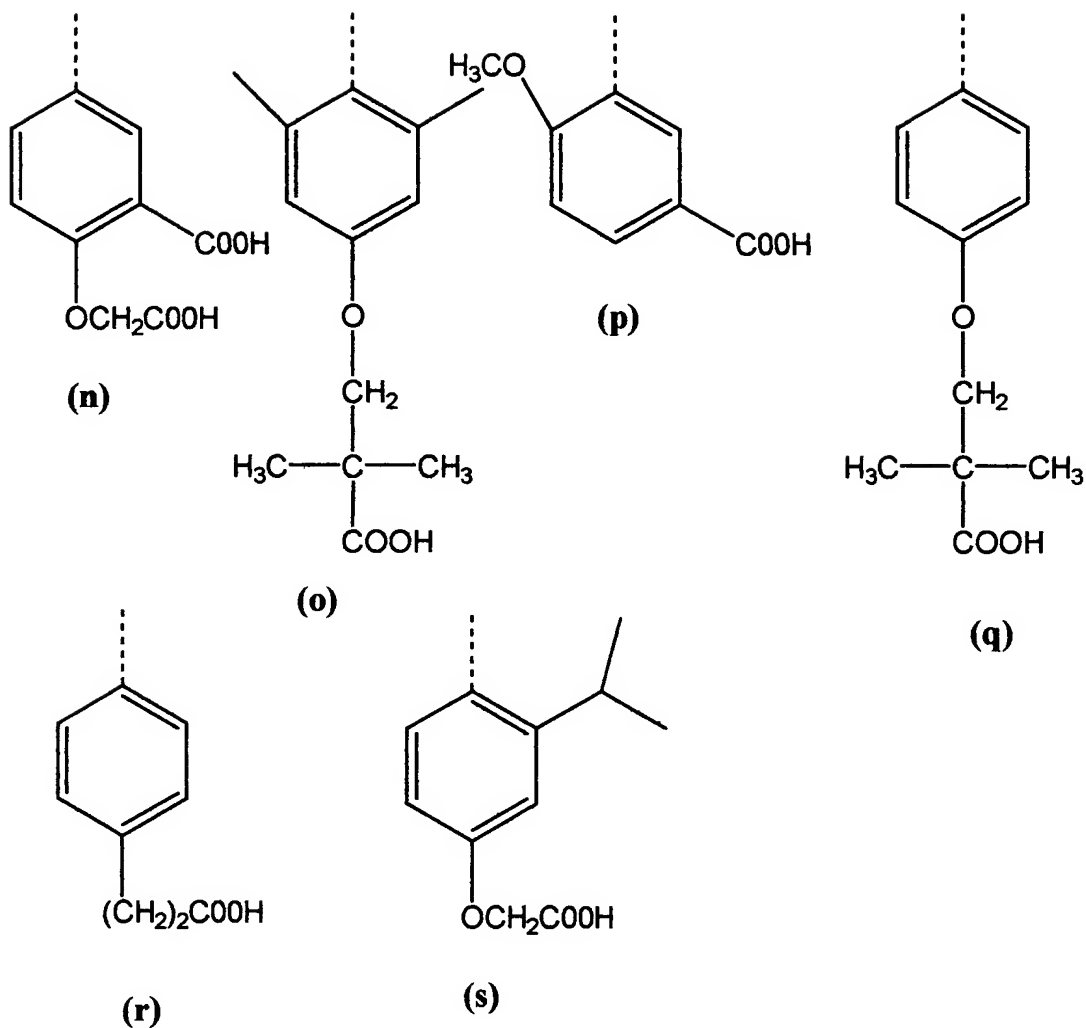
21. (original) A compound of **Formula 1, Formula 2, Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**

**Formula 1****Formula 2****Formula 3****Formula 4**

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2 and 3** where the  $\text{OCH}_3$ , and  $\text{HF}_2\text{CO}$  groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

wherein **R** represents the groups selected from **Formulas (a) through (s)**, the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the  $\text{SO}_2$  group,





or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

22. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 1**.

23. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 2**.

24. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 23 where the  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$  group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

25. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 3**.

**26. (original)** A compound in accordance with Claim 25 where the HF<sub>2</sub>O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

**27. (original)** A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 4**.

**28. (canceled)**

**29. (original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1.

**30. (original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 11.

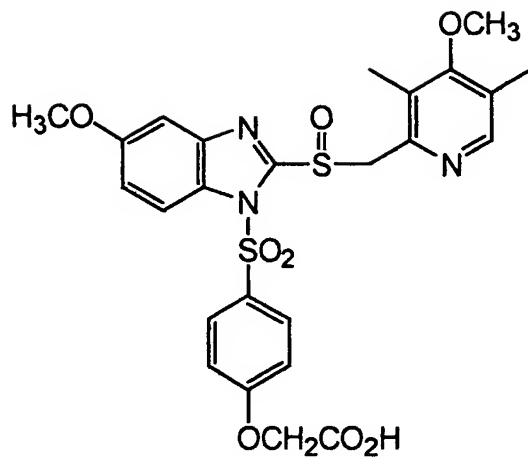
**31. (original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 21.

**32. (original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 28.

**33. (Canceled)**

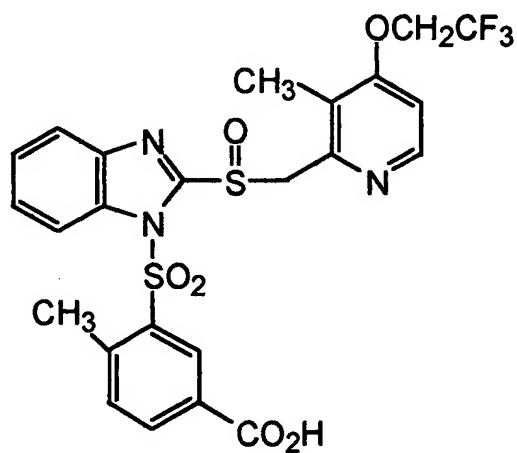
**34. (new)** A compound in accordance with Claim 1 having two R<sub>5</sub> groups which represent COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

**35. (new)** A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**36. (new)** A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.